

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/659,919

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

Applicant(s)

KREUTER, RUEDIGER GUENTER

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed May 30, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>7/31/06</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed May 30, 2006.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James A. Larson on July 31, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for remote personalization and issuance of identity documents, comprising:

a portable personalization machine having a housing that includes therein:

i) at least one personalization unit for performing a personalization operation on an identity document,

ii) an identity document input for inputting an identity document to be personalized,

iii) an identity document output for outputting an identity document personalized by the personalization unit,

iv) a control unit controlling the personalization unit,

v) communications equipment comprising communications transceiver to permit communications between the control unit and a controlling authority remote from the personalization machine, and

vi) an interface to permit connection between the control unit and a local controller;

vii) a receiver for obtaining the current geographic location of the portable personalization machine;

~~a controlling authority remote from the personalization machine;~~

wherein the local controller permits entry of locally collected data to the portable personalization machine, the local controller being external to the portable personalization machine and being interfaceable with the interface of the personalization machine.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the personalization machine further includes an encryption unit for encrypting and decrypting communications between the communications equipment of the personalization machine and the controlling authority.

3. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the receiver obtains the current geographic location of the personalization machine using a global positioning system.

4. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the communications transceiver comprises a global system for mobile communications transceiver.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the interface comprises an Ethernet connection.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the personalization unit comprises a laser engraving unit, an ink-jet printer, or an integrated circuit chip programming unit.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the personalization unit is adapted to personalize cards or booklets.

8. (Previously Amended) A portable personalization machine for use in remote personalization and issuance of identity documents, comprising:

a machine housing that includes integrated therein:

at least one personalization unit for performing a personalization operation on an identity document;

an identity document input for inputting an identity document to be personalized by the personalization unit;

an identity document output for outputting an identity document personalized by the personalization unit;

a control unit controlling the personalization unit;

communications equipment comprising a communications transceiver to permit communications between the control unit and a controlling authority remote from the personalization machine;

an interface to permit connection between the control unit and a local controller; and

a receiver for obtaining the current geographic location of the personalization machine;

wherein the local controller is provided externally to the personalization machine and allows entering of locally collected data to the portable personalization machine.

9. (Original) The portable personalization machine of claim 8, further including an encryption unit for encrypting and decrypting communications.

10. (Previously Amended) The portable personalization machine of claim 8, wherein the receiver obtains the current geographic location of the personalization machine using a global positioning system.

11. (Previously Amended) The portable personalization machine of claim 8, wherein the communications transceiver comprises a global system for mobile communications transceiver.

12. (Original) The portable personalization machine of claim 8, wherein the interface comprises an ethernet connection.

13. (Original) The portable personalization machine of claim 8, wherein the personalization unit comprises a laser engraving unit, an ink-jet printer, or an integrated circuit chip programming unit.

14. (Original) The portable personalization machine of claim 8, wherein the personalization unit is adapted to personalize cards or booklets.

15. (Previously Amended) A method of controlling a portable personalization machine for remotely personalizing and issuing identity documents, the portable personalization machine including at least one personalization unit capable of personalizing an identity document, comprising:

inputting local operator authorization into the personalization machine via a local controller that is external to the portable personalization machine and that is interfaceable with the personalization machine, wherein the personalization unit is initially disabled so that the personalization unit cannot perform a personalization function on an identity document; and

sending an enable request from the personalization machine to a controlling authority located remote from the personalization machine, wherein the enable request comprises

information on the current geographic location of the personalization machine provided by a position receiver located in the personalization machine;

wherein receiving of the local operator authorization into the personalization machine and sending the enable request to the controlling authority are controlled by a control unit integrated within the personalization machine.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising checking the information in the enable request against information stored at the controlling authority.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising sending an enable signal from the controlling authority to the personalization machine if the enable request information matches the stored information at the controlling authority, wherein the enable signal enables operation of the personalization unit so that the personalization unit can perform a personalization function.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising inputting local operator authorization and sending an enable request to the controlling authority for each operation of the personalization unit that requires operator intervention.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising inputting data to be personalized by the personalization unit into the personalization machine, sending the data to be personalized to the controlling authority, checking the data to be personalized against stored data at the controlling authority, and if there is a match, sending an authorization signal from the controlling authority to the personalization machine to enable the personalization unit to personalize the data onto the identity document.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising sending a report to the controlling authority after the completion of each personalization action by the personalization unit

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising sending a report to the controlling authority after the completion of personalization on an identity document.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior arts of record (Chan et al. (US 6,588,673B1); Bade et al. (US 6,778,837)) taken alone or in combination of other references, does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed portable personalization machine comprising elements recited in claims 1, 8, and 15. In Chan reference, the personalization equipment (136, 330) is separate from a control unit (132, 310). The claims recite that the personalization equipment and the control unit is integrated in a housing. Furthermore, none of the cited references discloses a receiver for obtaining the current geographic location of the portable personalization machine. After further search and thorough examination of the present application and in view of the Applicant's arguments and amendments, claims 1-21 are found to be in condition for allowance over the prior art made of record.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue


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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 5:30a-2:00p (Maxi-Flex*).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Steven S. Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876

ssp